



Artist Residencies

For the purposes of the Program Support grant category, an artist residency generally looks like this: an organization contracts with a professional artist or group of artists to engage a target audience group in your community over an extended period of time. (If the target audience is children or primarily children, applicants should consult the Arts-in-Education grant category for eligibility.)

The length of the residency can vary from three days to a year. Contact days can be sequential or can be spread out over a longer period of time. The merit of the artist's work is essential, as with all Program Support projects, but the artist must also have a proven track record of community-based work. This experience should be noted both in the narrative and in the bio or résumé uploaded in the Support Materials section.

A strong artist residency will involve a core group of participants that have the opportunity to work with the artist multiple times. An example might be a writer's residency with a group of veterans to generate stories of their military experiences or a choreographer working with cancer patients to chart their emotional journeys through the treatment process. "One-shot" activities can happen with other audiences during the residency as well. Ultimately, it is the mix of scheduled activities and how those activities build towards a common goal that make a residency compelling and successful.

Community-based residencies often result in the creation of a piece of collaborative art work – a mural in a public space or a dance performance including community members on stage or a play about something relevant and/or defining about the place. The premiere of the culminating art work provides another opportunity to extend the reach of the residency beyond the people who have direct contact with the visiting artist.

In order to be competitive, artist residency applications need to demonstrate that planning has already happened. This means that the applicant organization, the artist, and the primary community partners have had thoughtful conversation about what will happen during the residency, when it will happen, and who will be involved. Evidence of this level of planning *a/ways* helps a panel to feel more positive and confident about funding a proposal.